(i) Biomass gasifier system of 80kWe capacity at Tajna Shellac Factory, Khunti block, district Ranchi commissioned during 2004-05.

(ii) Solar photovoltaic power plant of 16 kWp capacity at village Nurda, Jheekpani block, district West Singhbhum commissioned during 2005-06.

(iii) Biofuel Pilot Demonstration project at village Gardih, Nawadih block, district Bokaro commissioned during 2006-07.

These apart, 928 biogas plants have been set up and 133 remote villages that are not to be provided grid-connectivity under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana have been provided with SPV home-lighting systems during the same period with CFA from the Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

Programmes for welfare of SC/ST

*444. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) which are the programmes directly concerning the welfare of SC and ST in the National Common Minimum Programme as approved by the U.P.A. Government;

(b) which out of the above are implemented by Government as on the 31st March, 2007; and

(c) what action are taken by the Ministry to implement the N.C.M.P. items concerning to SC and other weaker sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) provides for full equality of opportunity particularly in education and employment for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Weaker Sections of the Society. Though the primary responsibility for promotion of interests of SCs/STs rests with all the Central Ministries in the areas of their operation, this Ministry as also the Ministry of Tribal Affairs specifically carry out the special interventions for empowerment of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. The items

directly concerning the welfare of SCs/STs comprise of affirmative action including reservations in Private Sector and legislation for conferring ownership rights in respect of minor forest produce, rights of tribal and other forest dwelling communities over mineral and water sources in the forest areas and other socio-economic and environmental issues.

In pursuance of the basic principles of National Common Minimum Programme for providing education, employment and other developmental programmes for the weaker sections of the society, the Government constituted National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic "Tribes" on 14th March, 2005. The tenure of the Commission has been extended upto 5.2.2008.

In order to redress the problems of ownership rights and eviction in respect of the tribal communities and other forest dwelling communities dependent on forests, The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been enacted. The NCMP items pertaining to Minorities *i.e.* constitution of a National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities, enhancement in the authorized share capital of National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 650 crore along with an equity support of Rs. 73.65 crore for its effective functioning, introduction of Constitution Amendment Bill for granting constitutional status to the National Commission for Minorities, enhancing the corpus of Maulana Azad Education Foundation from Rs. 70 crore to Rs. 100 crore had been fulfilled before the creation of the separate Ministry of Minority Affairs. On the issue of affirmative action including reservations for SC/ST youth in the Private Sector, the dialogue is continuing with the Apex Industry and Trade Organisations.

Establishment of Evening Courts

*445. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the present work-load of pending cases in the High Courts during the last two years, State-wise and year-wise;